

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 18, of the specification as follows:

In yet another aspect, there is provided a strut positioning system for a foldable ladder configured for installation in an opening defined between one floor or space and another floor or space, the opening having a distal side to which a ladder is rotatably attached, a proximal side to which an opening or closing torque is applied to open or close the foldable ladder, and a first and a second lateral side, the [[gas]] strut positioning system comprising: a gas strut or a hydraulic strut having a proximal end and a distal end; a track configured for mounting in a fixed position relative to and along one of the first lateral side and the second lateral side of the opening defined between one floor or space and another floor or space; a rack plate comprising gear teeth configured to matingly engage corresponding pinion gear teeth and comprising a connector for connecting to the proximal end of the gas or hydraulic strut, the rack plate being configured for translational movement within the track from a first position to a second position, wherein the first position corresponds to a non-compressed state of the gas or hydraulic strut and the second position corresponds to a compressed state of the gas or hydraulic strut; a locking device configured to lock the rack plate in the second position; a pinion gear comprising teeth configured to matingly engage corresponding rack plate gear teeth and comprising a torque application member configured to matingly engage a torque application tool, the pinion gear being rotatably mounted in a fixed position on the lateral side of the opening within the track; wherein, upon connection of the distal end of the gas or hydraulic strut to one of a ladder and a link member attached to a ladder and compression of the gas or hydraulic strut by application of a torque to the pinion gear, the rack plate is locked in the second position.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 15, of the specification as follows:

In another aspect of the strut positioning system for a foldable ladder configured for installation in an opening defined between one floor or space and another floor or space, the opening having a distal side to which a ladder is rotatably attached, a proximal side to which an opening or closing torque is applied to open or close the foldable ladder, and a first and a second lateral side, there is provided a [[gas]] strut positioning system comprising: a gas strut or a hydraulic strut having a proximal end and a distal end; a track configured for mounting in a fixed position relative to and along one of the first lateral side and the second lateral side of the opening defined between one floor or space and another floor or space; a slide plate configured for translational movement within the track from a first position to a second position, wherein the first position corresponds to a non-compressed state of the gas or hydraulic strut and the second position corresponds to a compressed state of the gas or hydraulic strut; a means for locking the rack plate in the second position; wherein, upon connection of the distal end of the gas or hydraulic strut to a ladder or a link member attached to a ladder and compression of the gas or hydraulic strut, the slide plate is locked in the second position.